

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS19838C1

This bill specifies that applicants seeking financial assistance must comply with chapter 35, title 31. The bill also revises the following definitions: Board as being the Catastrophic Board; adds a definition of county commissioners; it includes an exclusion to the definition of necessary medical services for weight reduction procedures, drugs & devices; modifies the definition of resources to include SSI, third party and other insurance that may be eligible until a pending is made by the resources. Section 31-3503E clarifies that all parties involved are able to share health and financial information of an applicant; Section 31-3504 clarifies what occurs when the department determines an individual eligible for Medicaid and not eligible and it also requires a provider to submit billings to the utilization management review contractor within 5 days of being notified an individual is not eligible for Medicaid and that the results will be sent to the obligated county clerk; section 31-3505C will require the county to hold an application for an initial decision to deny, for the sole purpose of eligibility for another resource, in suspension until a decision is made, and if approved then the county will deny and if denied by such resource then the county will approve and pay the bill; Section 31-3507 removes the notice of admission which was only used occasionally; Section 31-3508 specifies that any provider seeking reimbursement shall participate in the utilization management program and recovery; Section 31-3509 restates that the county and state CAT are the last resource, that payment is payment in full and also requires providers to make all reasonable efforts to investigate and collect from the resources listed in the law before submitting to the county commissioners for payment; finally, in the event that an individual becomes eligible for one of the resources retrospectively, then the provider must either repay the county or state CAT or if a provider refuses to repay and seek reimbursement then allows the county to offset the amount from another outstanding bill; Section 31-3510 brings in language from the Workers Compensation law that allows for attorney fees in collections from a third party. The remainder is again clarifying where the CAT board and county commissioner's responsibilities are.

FISCAL NOTE

This could provide a savings for the state general fund and county property taxes if a resource is actually determined to be eligible. Otherwise, the state and county would be responsible after an applicant is determined to be indigent and such resource has issued a final decision. Such payment would not be issued until a final decision is made.

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